

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08

EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05

USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AGRE-00 /117 W

-----074939 261930Z /47

R 261735Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7714

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

ALL OECD CAPITALS

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SECSTATE ALSO FOR SHEAR AFR/SFWA

11652: N/A

TAGS: UN SENV EGEN OCON

SUBJECT: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 196362

1. RESPONSE TO REFTEL WILL BE IN TWO PARTS, VIEWS OF CLUB DE SAHEL SECRETARIAT AT OECD WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING ON LONG-TERM PLAN FOR SAHEL (PARA 2) AND VIEWS OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT (PARA 3).

2. LONG-TERM STRATEGY AND FIRST GENERATION PROGRAM FOR THE SAHEL, RECENTLY ADOPTED MAJOR DONORS AT OTTAWA MEETING OF CLUB CONTAINS MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RECLAMATION INCLUDING ANTI-DESERTIFICATION MEASURES. HOWEVER, MEASURES TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION MEASURES.

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CATION ARE INTEGRATED INTO PRODUCTION EFFORTS, PRIMARILY LIVESTOCK AND REFORESTATION. CLUB HAS WORKED WITH UNEP AND CONSIDER THAT PROPOSALS BEING PUT FORTH AT NAIROBI (PROJECT SOLAR AND GREEN BELT) ARE PIECEMEAL EFFORTS NOT LIKELY TO IMPACT ON DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS UNLESS THEY ARE INTEGRATED INTO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS PRODUCTION EFFORTS. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF

CILSS AT NAIROBI MEETING (HORATIO SOARES AND IAN STEBLER) HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CLUB ECOLOGY TEAM AND WILL TAKE POSITION AT NAIROBI THAT UNEP DESIGNED PROJECTS MUST BECOME PART OF COMPREHENSIVE SAHEL EFFORT. IN THIS REGARD SAHELIAN COUNTRIES ARE OPPOSED TO UNEP OR U.N. FAMILY ACTING AS IMPLEMENTING AGENTS FOR PROJECTS, WISHING TO RELY ON THEIR OWN NATIONAL SERVICES. CLUB SECRETARIAT BELIEVES CONSORTIUM APPROACH INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS. CONSORTIUM FINANCING FOR GLOBAL PLAN WOULD BE EATEN UP BY CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND VIEWED HERE AS BACK DOOR SOLUTION TO UNEP BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. FEELING HERE IS THAT FUNDING FOR ANY PROJECTS APPROVED SHOULD BE MORE LOCALIZED AND IN CASE OF SAHEL, FUNDING SHOULD PASS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS CILSS OR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO NATIONAL FORESTRY OR LIVESTOCK SERVICES CHARGED WITH LONG-TERM NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. REGARDING NEED FOR COORDINATION OF EFFORTS MECHANISM EXISTS IN CLUB DE SAHEL WHICH IS IN EFFECT REGIONALIZED CONSORTIUM.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT DELEGATION REVEALED FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

A. FRENCH FIND GREAT CONFUSION IN DOCUMENTATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINDING REFERENCE TO A FUND, A CONSORTIUM AND WORKING GROUP. THEY ARE VERY COOL TO IDEA OF CONSORTIUM FINANCING, FEELING THAT ACTIONS TO RESOLVE DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY INTERESTED DONORS IN SPECIFIC COUNTRIES OR ENVIRONMENTALLY HIT REGIONS. IN ANY CASE FRENCH ARE EXPERIENCING FIFTEEN PERCENT CUTBACK IN ALL MINISTRY BUDGETS DURING 1977-78 AND WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY FINANCING CONSORTIUM. THEY WISH TO AVOID POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT OF BEING SQUEEZED INTO "MINI-FUND" TO WHICH THEY CANNOT NOW OFFER ANY FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

B. THEY HAVE LONG BEEN CRITICAL OF UN FAMILY INEFFICIENCIES AND WILL OPPOSE ANY PROPOSALS WHICH THEY FEEL WILL ADD, EVEN IN THE NAME OF ENVIRONMENT, TO EXPANDING THIS BUREAUCRACY. THEY NOTE THAT IF IMPLEMENTED THE CONFERENCE PROPOSALS WOULD RESULT IN AT LEAST TWELVE NEW REGIONAL OFFICES OR BODIES. FRENCH POSITION IS THAT EXISTING LDC ORGANIZATION

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SHOULD BE MADE MORE EFFICIENT.

C. FRANCE IS OPPOSED TO THE "GREEN BELT" PROJECT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA SINCE AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED IT DID NOT DEAL WITH THE DYNAMICS OF USING REVEGETATION AS A CONTINUING SOURCE OF PRODUCTION FOR HUMAN AND ANIMAL CONSUMPTION. AS SUCH REFORESTATION MUST OCCUR IN PROXIMITY TO CONCENTRATIONS OF POPULATION THAT IS WHERE DESERTIFICATION IS MOST SERIOUS IN SUB-SAHARA REGION. FRENCH BELIEVE THAT AMBITIOUS REFORESTATION PROGRAM PREPARED BY CILSS IS MORE APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR ADDRESSING PROBLEM.

4. FRENCH DELEGATION AT NAIROBI WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

--AMBASSADOR RODOCANACCHI, HEAD OF DELEGATION, MINISTER  
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PLENIPOTENTIARY.

--MME DUBOIS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UNITED  
NATIONS DIRECTORATE.

--MR. AUBERD, ORSTROM (OBSERVER)

--MR. LORGNIERER D'MESNIL, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.

--MR. GIRARD WEIL, COORDINATOR FOR FAO

--MR. DELWALL, FORESTER, CENTER FOR TROPICAL FORESTS.

5. DEPUTY HEAD OF FRENCH DELEGATION MME DUBOIS IS  
ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH U. S. REPRESENTATIVES.  
SHE DEPARTS FOR NAIROBI AUGUST 23. STRONGLY  
RECOMMEND THAT U.S. DELEGATION COLLABORATE WITH FRENCH  
PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS PROGRAM ELEMENTS FOR  
SUB-SAHARA AFRICA. IN ADDITION REQUEST U.S. DELEGATION  
CONTACT MR. SOARES AND MR. STEBLER REPRESENTING CILSS  
REGARDING POSITION OS EIGHT SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 196362  
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**TAGS:** SENV, EGEN, OCON, FR, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
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